

TO THE

Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy, of both Sexes

IN THE

City of DUBLIN.

THE HUMBLE

PETITION

OF

GEORGE FAULKNER

AND

GEORGE GRIERSON,

Printers and Booksellers.

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PETITION

GEORGE FAULKNER

GEORGE GREENE

FRANKLIN AND BOOKS

T O T H E
Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy of both Sexes
in the City of *D U B L I N*.

T H E H U M B L E
P E T I T I O N
O F

GEORGE FAULKNER and GEORGE GRIERSON,

Printers and Booksellers.

SHEWETH,

THAT your Petitioners, *though Book-sellers*, call God to Witness, that they are not prompted by any desire of Gain, to this their humble Application, being able (Blessed be God) in case their Trade should intirely fail, to live decently, and reputably upon nothing, as many of their betters are known to do; but that it proceeds singly from their regard for the honour and reputation of this Metropolis.

Your Petitioners can with truth assert, that they have not for a considerable Time past sold any Books, (though they have at a very great expence provided themselves with the worst)

excepting some few old Sermons against *Popery*, and the newest *Country Dances*.

Your Petitioners are as sensible as any of your Honours can be, of the little use, and importance of that Learning and Knowledge that is contained in Books, and would not be misunderstood to recommend to your Honours the useless drudgery of reading, which would too much break in upon your precious time. But your Petitioners beg leave to suggest that, as the reputation of some Learning is as honourable to a Nation abroad, as the reality of it could be prejudicial at home; it might possibly not be amiss to keep up the outward appearances of it, by not suffering your Petitioners, to shut up their Shops for want of Customers.

Your Petitioners humbly conceive, that as reading is by no means the necessary consequence of buying Books, Persons even of the first Rank might encourage Trade, without the least danger to themselves, many valuable Libraries having formerly been purchased by Persons of Rank infinitely above looking into 'em,

Your Petitioners take upon 'em to prove, that a certain number of Books, if well chosen, are cheaper Furniture and wear longer, than a good *Genoa* Damask. One thousand Books, if collected by the Joyner, will, together with the proper Wainscot Ornaments, Shelves and Partitions, compleatly furnish one large Room, which Bookshelves with another, need not exceed

two Shillings a piece, amounting in all to one hundred Pounds; whereas two hundred of *Genoa* Damask, which we take to be the least, at fourteen Shillings *per* Yard, which we take to be the lowest Price, will amount to one hundred and forty Pounds. So that there appears to be a wet saving of forty Pounds. Not to mention many other Savings and Conveniencies which would arise to all private Families from this kind of Furniture. Such as having a sufficient quantity of waste Paper ready at hand for the sudden exigencies of the Master and Mistress; or to lap round Candles; or to light the Tea-Lamp; or to make bottoms to wind Worsted upon; or to pin up Miss's Hair; or to make Kites for young Masters; or to wet and put upon his Forehead when he falls down and cries, or in short, for a Thousand other Purposes, for which, Paper has of late been found much more useful, than for the old Ones of Reading and Writing, an Advantage peculiar to this kind of Furniture, where even the Wear and Tear are profitable.

Your Petitioners now beg leave to obviate the only Objections, which they conceive can be made to their Proposal. As

1st. That Books so near at Hand, may some Times tempt their Owners to throw away some of their precious Time, in dipping into 'em at least were it only to look for the Pictures. But this we Apprehend to have no Weight, considering how fully and how necessarily, all the Hours
of

of the Day, and many of the Night are at Present employ'd; and that the last ten Hours of every Day effectually, Prevent any Danger of that kind the next Morning, by rendering the Head too Solid for such trifling Amusements.

2dly. That as Reading, implies a want of natural Vivacity and Invention. A Gentleman might be reflected upon, if he were known to have Books in his Possession, and be suspected of Reading and Dullness. But we Conceive that so groundless a Suspicion could not prevail long, and that the injur'd Person would soon remove it; by the Native and Noble Simplicity of his Conversation.

3dly. That this Innovation might pave the Way for others of a more dangerous Nature, and by Degrees, introduce some Encouragement of other Arts and Manufactures among ourselves, to the great detriment of our Neighbours, and the diminution of the Duties upon Importation. This danger we Apprehend, will Appear very Remote, if not absolutely Chimericall, to all those, who have seen and known the noble Stand, that has been so long and so gloriously made, by the Nobility and Gentry, of both Sexes in this Capital, and indeed, throughout the whole Kingdom, against any Attempts of that Nature. Moreover, if requir'd, we will give Security, that the Books, Bindings, Paper and Contents, shall be all Foreign.

Having thus as we humbly apprehend, obviated all the Objections that can possibly be urg'd
against

against our Proposal, we now proceed to lay the Proposal itself before the Publick.

The Number of Inhabitants of this great City, at a moderate Computation, is supposed to amount to 100,000 Souls, allowing at a Medium, one Soul to each Inhabitants. Of these 100,000 Souls, one may fairly deduct 20,000 who are below Reading, that is, who cannot Read. One may further deduct 40,000 more, who ought not to Read; such as Tradesmen, Whores, Curates, Subalterns, &c. then there will remain 40,000, who can Read, might Read if they pleas'd, but who don't chuse to Read. Such as the Nobility, Gentry, dignified Clergy, superior Officers, Civil and Military; and in general, all such as are styl'd People of Fashion, and who are above Reading,

To this latter Class, we Address ourselves, and humbly propose, that they should come into a Subscription, to take each four Books *per Annum*, such as they shall chuse, at three Shillings and six Pence *per Book*, at an Avarage; which will Amount in all, to but fourteen Shillings a Year, which though a very inconsiderable Sum to each Individual, and little exceeding four Bottles of Claret; Amounts in the whole to 28,000 Pounds, out of which Sum, upon the Faith of Christians, we only Desire the small Profit of the odd 8,000 Pounds. A trifling Object when compar'd to the Honour and Lustre, which this City will receive from it, and which, if we dare so much, it wants a little.

tle. It would ill become us to collect the many Modern Sarcasms, that have been bestow'd upon our Dear Country upon this score ; we will therefore only transcribe in Latin, for the sake of Secrecy, what we are told, *Tacitus* in the third Book of his Annals of *Ireland*, says of *Dublin*. *Urbs Omnino inurbana, omnium bonarum Artium planè rudis, Nimio potu, Squalore et inertia, tantum Insignis.*

These Premises consider'd, your Petitioners persuade themselves that they shall meet with all the Encouragement, and accordingly will

For Ever Pray.

